

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY 13, 1962

341-113

(MCCONE)

WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S NOMINATION OF JOHN A. MCCONE TO HEAD THE SUPER-SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY APPEARED HEADED TODAY TOWARD SWIFT SENATE APPROVAL ALTHOUGH A FEW SCATTERED QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED.

MCCONE, 60-YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIA SHIPBUILDING EXECUTIVE, WAS NAMED THE NATION'S TOP INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR DURING THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL RECESS. A REPUBLICAN HE SERVED THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION AS UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED A HEARING ON THE NOMINATION NEXT THURSDAY. CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER A CLOSER CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF CIA PROMISED TO CHOP UP AT THE CONFIRMATION HEARING.

SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., PRINCIPAL SENATE SPONSOR OF RESOLUTIONS TO ESTABLISH A CONGRESSIONAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE FOR CIA, SAID TODAY THAT HE HAS ARRANGED TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS. HE SAID HE HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO OPPOSE MCCONE'S NOMINATION AND STILL AWAITING RESULTS OF THE HEARING.

MCCARTHY SAID HE PLANS TO URGE THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO MCCONE'S QUALIFICATIONS. HE EXPECTS TO RENEW HIS PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT SENATE-HOUSE WATCHDOG COMMITTEE.

THE SENATOR SAID HE WILL SPECIFICALLY ASK THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO REVIEW MCCONE'S ACTION IN 1956, WHEN, AS A TRUSTEE OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED A STATEMENT ISSUED BY A GROUP OF CAL. TECH SCIENTISTS. THEY PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCE THAT IT WOULD NOT TEST NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS LONG AS OTHER NATIONS DESISTED.

MCCONE'S LETTER THE SCIENTISTS WAS CITED AS A POSSIBLE INFRINGEMENT ON FREE SPEECH IN 1958 HEARINGS ON HIS NOMINATION AS AEC CHAIRMAN. MCCONE EXPLAINED THEN THAT HE FELT THE SCIENTISTS WERE USING THEIR UNIVERSITY AS A PLATFORM FOR A POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT OF FORMER GOV. ADLAI E. STEVENSON'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT ON TESTING.

HIS NOMINATION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AEC WAS SPEEDILY APPROVED. IN THAT POST, HE ENJOYED A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SENATE-HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY. HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF SOME OF ITS MORE INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS.

NO OTHER WITNESSES HAVE ASKED TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING. HOWEVER, AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IS KNOWN TO BE REVIEWING MCCONE'S WORLD WAR II RELATIONSHIP WITH SHIPBUILDER HENRY J. KAISER AND HIS KOREAN WAR ACTION WHICH GAVE KAISER INTERESTS AN AIR FORCE PLANE CONTRACT WHICH HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR FAIRCHILD.

DATA ON THESE TRANSACTIONS WERE AIDED PRIOR TO MCCONE'S APPOINTMENT TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND REVIEWED BEFORE HIS CONFIRMATION.

1/13-104571ES